

**STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
NOTICE OF MEETING**

August 25, 2014

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

(Wilm) C. Hampson, A. Wozney, D. McMullin-Powell, J.Gano, J.
Berry, J. May, K.Bottner, H.A.Litwin, M. May, M. Edgar, S. Howell
(Dover) L. Evans, Debbie Briddle

MEMBERS ABSENT

B.Roberts, C.Trincia, J.Insley,
K.Kalman, L.Henderson,

Meeting Minutes

11:30 am – 12:05 pm Lunch

12:05 pm – 12:08 pm Meeting called to order @ 12:06pm, by Vice Chair Suzanne Howell

- Introductions
- Minutes Approved
- No Chair Report

12:10 pm – 12:30 pm DVI Report~~Melody May provided information about some activities at DVI:

- Outreach: Transition program @ Wesley College which will provide a better approach to providing Transition services to students.
- A Delaware Emergency Management Agency Representative provided a presentation on Emergency Preparedness; smoke detectors were provided to participants.
- Melody May attended the Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired Conference in Texas. The focus was on serving the needs of Dual Sensory Impaired individuals. Members of the SILC provided the following input:
 - A question was posed about the number of individuals who would benefit from these services Kat Botner will research this and inform the group at a later time
 - It was suggested that Cynthia Ingraham –the area 3 representative with the Helen Keller National Center-be a guest speaker at an upcoming SILC meeting. Kat Botner will contact Ms. Ingraham and invite her to one of our meetings.
- On Aug 29, DVI launched a “Question & Answer” line for those interested in Independent Living, DVI Services, and other resources.
- Program Updates: Consumers Served-Current Fiscal Year-349 (1% increase from FY13)
- DVI is partnering with Delaware Libraries to provide low vision programing
 - Following are the workshop currently scheduled
 - 9/17/14 @ Claymont Library “Living Independent with Low Vision”
 - 9/18/14 Biggs Building -Diabetes Workshop (930-Noon)
 - 9/19/14 Biggs Building –DVI & DIB open house (10-2)
 - 10/17/14 Dover Modern Maturity Center-Technology Faire (9-2)

12:30 pm Independent Resources, Inc: Larry Henderson called to indicate that he could not attend due to an emergency

12:30 pm – 12:35 pm Blind Ambitions~~Debbie Briddell provided the following report:

- Workshops held so far this year: “Advance Directives”, “Communication Skills”, “Orientation and Mobility”, “The Importance of Using the White Cane”

- Nancy Marvel, Cofounder and current Director of Blind Ambitions, will be stepping down. HarrietAnn will have a private conversation with the representative to figure out how to go forward..
- There are between 12-16 consumers who attend the workshops on a monthly basis

12:35 pm – 12:40 pm Delaware Assoc. for the Blind~~Janet Berry provided the following report:

- This quarter DAB held 14 peer support sessions.
- DAB is working with Apple Technology to facilitate education on the use of Apple products.
- Staff members are scheduled to receive certification in Assistive Technology
- Events
 - 9/13/14 DAB is participating as a beneficiary agency during the Walk for a Healthy Community, a fund raising walk sponsored by BlueCross/BlueShield Highmark of DE.
 - 10/15/14 Open House-“White Cane Day” DAB is planning to partner with DVI Mobility Counselors for the Open House.
- Summer Camp for those younger than 18years old
 - The camp focus was on Independent Living skills
 - The program partnered with DVI’s itinerant teachers who focused on braille, reading & writing, large print reading & writing, math skills along with other academic skills.
 - DVI specialists instructed the students in orientation and mobility skills
 - Counselors discussed the emotional aspects of blindness.
- Staff members attended the National Federation of the Blind Conference, and the American Council of the Blind Conference. Some things they learned were:
 - Changes have been made to the Unified Braille Code to be implemented in 2016. This will change how children learn Braille. The reason for the changes is hope that future braille will be more succinct.
 - The request to change American paper money to accommodate the blind has been turned down. The Bureau of Engraving has decided it would be too costly to change the currency. They will provide, free of charge, a money reader. These devices will not available until Jan. 2015, but they suggest blind individuals register to receive a money reader starting in September of 2014.
 - Walgreens nationwide will now provide- free of charge -talking pill bottles for their visually impaired customers. DAB will hold a demonstration on 9/24/14 (the peer support meeting) with a Walgreens pharmacist.
 - A member let the council noted that Walgreens will also deliver prescriptions for free

12:40 pm – 12:50 pm Freedom Center~~Lillian Evans provided the following report:

- 51 active consumers
- 51 consumer cases closed-5 dropped
- 35 active peer support group members
- Processed 770 Information and Referral Requests (I&R’s) including 98% requests for housing during this fiscal year (9/2013-7/2014)
- Freedom Center has a New Peer Support Coordinator
- Freedom Center will have an Educator/trainer from the Delaware Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance give a presentation at an upcoming session
- A representative from Rite-Aid will be coming to the Freedom Center to administer Flu Shots.
- In October Rite-Aid will present a series of seminars for Breast Awareness Month (Dates TBA)
- 10 consumers will be attending the Blue Rocks game on 8/27/14
- Several staff and consumers attended the DE Manufactured Home Owners Assoc. Meeting to discuss HB 262 ([http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/lis147.nsf/vwLegislation/HB+262/\\$file/legis.html?open](http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/lis147.nsf/vwLegislation/HB+262/$file/legis.html?open)) and HB 234 ([http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/lis147.nsf/vwLegislation/HB+234/\\$file/legis.html?open](http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/lis147.nsf/vwLegislation/HB+234/$file/legis.html?open)).
- Several staff and consumers will be attending the Governors Committee on Housing
- Freedom Center Staff will present a workshop to the staff of Delaware Help Line (211)

- Freedom Center Staff has had some major changes within the last 5 months. All but two employees are new to the Freedom Center.
- To train their staff, Freedom Center utilizes the ILRU site for peer support program

12:50 pm – 1:00 pm DVR Report ~~ John Gano provided the following report:

- 89 Consumers served Year to Date (YtD)
- Of the 89, 61 cases have been closed YtD after receiving such services as: home accessibility, bathroom modifications, hearing aids, etc
- DVR IL Program continues to do home accessibility assessments for Delaware Physicians Care contract
 - Received about two dozen new referrals in one week in June.
- DVR's IL program encourages consumers to apply to different agencies while waiting to hear if they have been approved with Independent Living. Some outside agencies are telling their consumers that DVR's IL Program has no funds or that there is a long waiting list. However, this is erroneous information, as those passing it on are not aware of what is available.
- There are 25 active clients awaiting services to be rendered.
- State Council for People with Disabilities asked VR's IL office to pilot a project for persons with Traumatic Brain Injuries. The project will provide not only home modifications, but also assist dogs, and home health care aids. The Office of Independent Living has been asked to provide project management services.

01:00 pm – 01:45 pm Old Business: NCIL Conference ~~The three SILC members who attended the National Council on Independent Living provided the following report:

- Daniese McMullin-Powell:
 - Reauthorized Rehab Act, WIOA
 - SILC and CILs will now fall under US Department of Health and Human Services, DHHS Administration on Community Living. The IL community had pushed for this, believing that DHHS is better equipped to address independent living issues instead of the DOE.
<http://www.ncil.org/rehabact>
 - A 5th core service has been added to the original 4 Advocacy, Information and Referral, Peer Support, and IL Skills training. Now Transitioning is added. Both Nursing Facility transitions to Community, and Youth transitioning. These are now required
 - SILC and Centers for Independent Living are required to be involved in nursing facility transitioning as part of the 5th core service.
 - Transition youth have historically been placed directly in sheltered workshops, which is popular with parents (they feel it is safer for their child). This is not always the best placement for youths with disabilities. The SILC and Centers for Independent Living are now required to be involved in Transitioning youth.
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 - The Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD), who has traditionally only worked with those 18 or older, are now working with high school (14yo) students to get transition youth positions at minimum wage positions (Fast food restaurants or dollar stores, etc).
 - Affordable Care Act (ACA) and new DOL rules affecting home attendant services.
 - New rules set by the DOL will change the "companionship rules" that affect home attendant workers now. The new rules will be in effect as of January 2015. Personal Attendants must receive O.T. pay for over 40 hours. This will apply even if more than one person receives care. Time between will also count as time worked. Medicaid is not prepared to pay O.T. The new rules may be problematic to people that receive their services from paid family members and are eligible for more than 40 hours of services. They may have to hire others to fill in the lost hours.. Attendants may not receive the pay

they are used to because of the 40 hour restrictions. There are few exceptions and the full rules are complicated. Sec. of DOL Perez has decided to not fully enforce the rules for several months into 2015.

- Delaware ~~residents that~~ residents that are Medicaid eligible for attendant services do not have true consumer direction. The State is a joint-employer. The State decides rate of pay and number of hours. There are very few states that have true self direction called in this case “Cash and Counseling” The person gets a set amount and can use the allotted amount to purchase the services they need. In Delaware each service is provided by the state on it’s decision of eligibility.
- Community Integration Act (CIA) legislation introduced by Sen. Tom Harkin that upholds Services to be received in the community as a civil right. Nursing facilities would be a last resort.
 - Community First Choice Option (CFCO) offered under the ACA
 - A state can amend its Medicaid state plan Medicaid monies under the 1915K amendment could be used for self-directed attendant services ,apartment security deposits, utilities, household set up etc. when transitioning from a facility or to remain in the community This is not currently available without amending the state plan.. Person must require level of care of a nursing facility but not having to reside in one. The state would receive a 6% enhanced Fed. Match for these services. Delaware has not selected this option YET.
 - Under MFP, that Delaware does have, a Consumer must reside in a nursing facility for three months before they are eligible for MFP services but, MFP is ~~scheduled~~ scheduled to end in 2016

➤ Cheryl Hampson

- Some of the topics discussed in the Home Care seminar were:
 - The status of family members who provide home health care
 - Should an aid’s travel time between clients be remunerated (this is already in the new regulations for Jan 2015)
 - The issues related to when the attendant lives with client
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
 - Designed to help persons with disabilities navigate financial matters-credit report, foreclosure, loans, debt management etc.
 - They will explain credit reports, and consumer rights advocacy
 - Recommend sending consumers to this bureau.
 - Delaware has a “\$tand by Me” organization. (standbyme.org), which will help any person who seeks financial counselling
- CRPD-Convention on the Rites for Persons with Disabilities
 - Focus on the International Disabilities Treaty
 - Goal is to raise the rights of people with disabilities around the world.
 - Some countries allow employment discrimination to those with disabilities
 - ADA was the model used to create the treaty
 - The US has NOT ratified the treaty
 - There are many myths surrounding this treaty
 - Contact your senators and tell them to get this ratified
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>

➤ Moni Edgar

- New Technology
 - New Google Glasses demonstrated
 - Voice activated app for mobile device for those with disabilities to use their touch enabled devices
- All the information will be scanned uploaded to the SILC website (there is too much information to send through email) <http://www.delawaresilc.org/>

01:48 pm – 02:00 pm New Business

- Daniese will be meeting with HUD (Housing and Urban Development) Secretary
 - She will be discussing housing issues
 - Conference next May called “Prepare Yourself”
 - To get Persons with disabilities and first responders together to discuss needs
 - Delaware Rehabilitation Association
 - Focus is on persons with criminal histories and employment
- ADA 25
 - The ADA will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in July of 2015
 - The theme this year is
“Disability Rights are - Civil Rites”
- Train Derailment Preparedness at Fairplay Station. (Delaware Park train station)
 - Registration required
 - Starts @ 7am on Saturday, October 4, 2014
- Amanda Burges would like to come to speak to the group
 - She is studying Criminal Justice with an interest in domestic violence against women with disabilities. (WHO BROUGHT THIS UP? WHO IS FOLLOWING UP?)Cheryl
- Membership:
 - Chris’s and Daniese’s SILC memberships expired last year-2013
 - The governor’s office indicated that, according to the state constitution, it is the governor’s discretion to revoke membership. If the governor appoints someone to a position, they are in that position until the governor removes him/her.
 - However, RSA guidelines differ. There are term limits in place
 - It is requested that someone on VR’s staff, HarrietAnn or Ed Tos, inquire as to the reappointment status.

02:05 pm Adjourn Meeting